

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 863

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: LOYALIST FEUD CONTINUES

1. THERE CONTINUED LULL IN FIGHTING BETWEEN OFFICIAL IRA AND IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY. PROVISIONAL IRA MAINTAINING ITS CEASEFIRE ALTHOUGH THREATENING END IT UNLESS BRITISH ARMY APOLOGIZES FOR SHOOTING TWO YOUNG PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN MEN LAST THURSDAY (REFTEL). FEUD BETWEEN ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE AND ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION CONTINUES WITH THREE MEN SHOT AND WOUNDED IN TWO BAR INCIDENTS MARCH 18 AND ANOTHER INJURED BY FLYING GLASS WHEN BAR MACHINE GUNNED MARCH 19 AND SHOTS EXCHANGED BETWEEN GUNMEN AND ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY PATROL SAME PROTESTANT AREA.

2. LOYALIST POLITICIANS SLOW TO REACT TO FEUD. EXCEPTION IS REVEREND IAN PAISLEY DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY WHO CONDEMNED VIOLENT ACTIVITIES IN STRONGEST TERMS MARCH 19. PAISLEY SAID "ALL RIGHT THINKING PROTESTANTS REPUDIATE AND CONDEMN ANY SO-CALLED PROTESTANT PARA-MILITARY GROUP OR GROUPS WHO COMMIT ATROCIOUS CRIMES." "AS CHRISTIAN," PAISLEY REPUDIATED THEIR CLAIM TO BE PROTESTANTS AND THEIR RIGHT TO SPEAK IN NAME LOYALIST COMMUNITY. HE CALLED FOR GUILTY BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL.

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3. LOYALIST POLITICIANS PERTURBED BY TRANSFER PRICE
SISTERS FROM DURHAM PRISON BRITAIN TO ARMAGH JAIL MARCH 18.
SISTERS MEMBERS PROVISIONAL IRA AND CONVICTED OF BOMBINGS
ON U.K. MAINLAND. THEY BELIEVED BE HIGHLY REGARDED BY
PROVISIONAL LEADERSHIP. OSTENSIBLE REASON LOYALIST
CONCERN IS THREAT SECURITY POSED BY THEIR PRESENCE ARMAGH
JAIL WHICH NOT RPT NOT MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY AND WHICH
SCENE PARTIAL TAKEOVER BY WOMEN PRISONERS LATE 1974.
SOME LOYALISTS SEE PRICE TRANSFERS AS ANOTHER PART OF
CEASEFIRE "DEAL" BETWEEN HMG AND PROVISIONALS.

SPICER

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